



DATE: April 23, 2008

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

ADEQ Issues First 2008 High Pollution Advisory for Ozone for Thursday, April 24

PHOENIX (April 23, 2008) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Phoenix metropolitan area due to forecast weather conditions on Thursday, April 24 expected to generate levels of ozone that may exceed the federal health standard.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Thursday and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day.

Employers participating in the Valley's Trip Reduction Program should implement their pollution reduction action plans on Thursday, and all Valley residents should reduce ozone-producing emissions by taking the following steps:

- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use mass transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit ValleyMetro: www.valleymetro.org
- Avoid idling your vehicle.
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment. Refuel vehicles after 4 p.m.
- Make sure your car's tires are properly inflated and your wheels are aligned.
- Be careful not to spill gasoline when filling up your car or gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Seal containers of household cleaners, workshop chemicals and solvents, and garden chemicals to prevent gases from evaporating into the air.
- Dispose of containers properly.

"This is the first High Pollution Advisory for ozone we have issued this year," ADEQ Director Steve Owens said. "Increasing temperatures and other conditions are contributing to higher ozone levels. We urge Valley residents to take steps to help reduce emissions that lead to the formation of ozone."

Ground-level ozone pollution is caused by the interaction of sunlight with the many pollutants generated by automobiles, gasoline-powered lawn equipment and other sources. Ozone can irritate the respiratory system, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma and other chronic lung conditions, and inflame and damage the cells that line the lungs. Repeated short-term ozone damage to children's developing lungs may lead to reduced lung function in adulthood.

Ozone
2 – 2 – 2

Daily air quality forecasts are located on ADEQ's Web site or by telephone at (602) 771-2367. Those interested in receiving the air quality forecast via email can subscribe to our daily forecast list: www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html

You can also sign up for text-message alerts: www.azdeq.gov/sms.html

For more information on HPAs: www.azdeq.gov/enviro/air/monitoring/hpa.html